Safe Travels

Study Abroad Training

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2018–2025

Answer these questions.
Give extra details, if possible.

1) What possession have you owned the longest?
2) What possessions do you use the most in your life?
3) What possessions do you have that make you happy?

Big Three Travel Items

Most Important Thing

Some Common Dangers

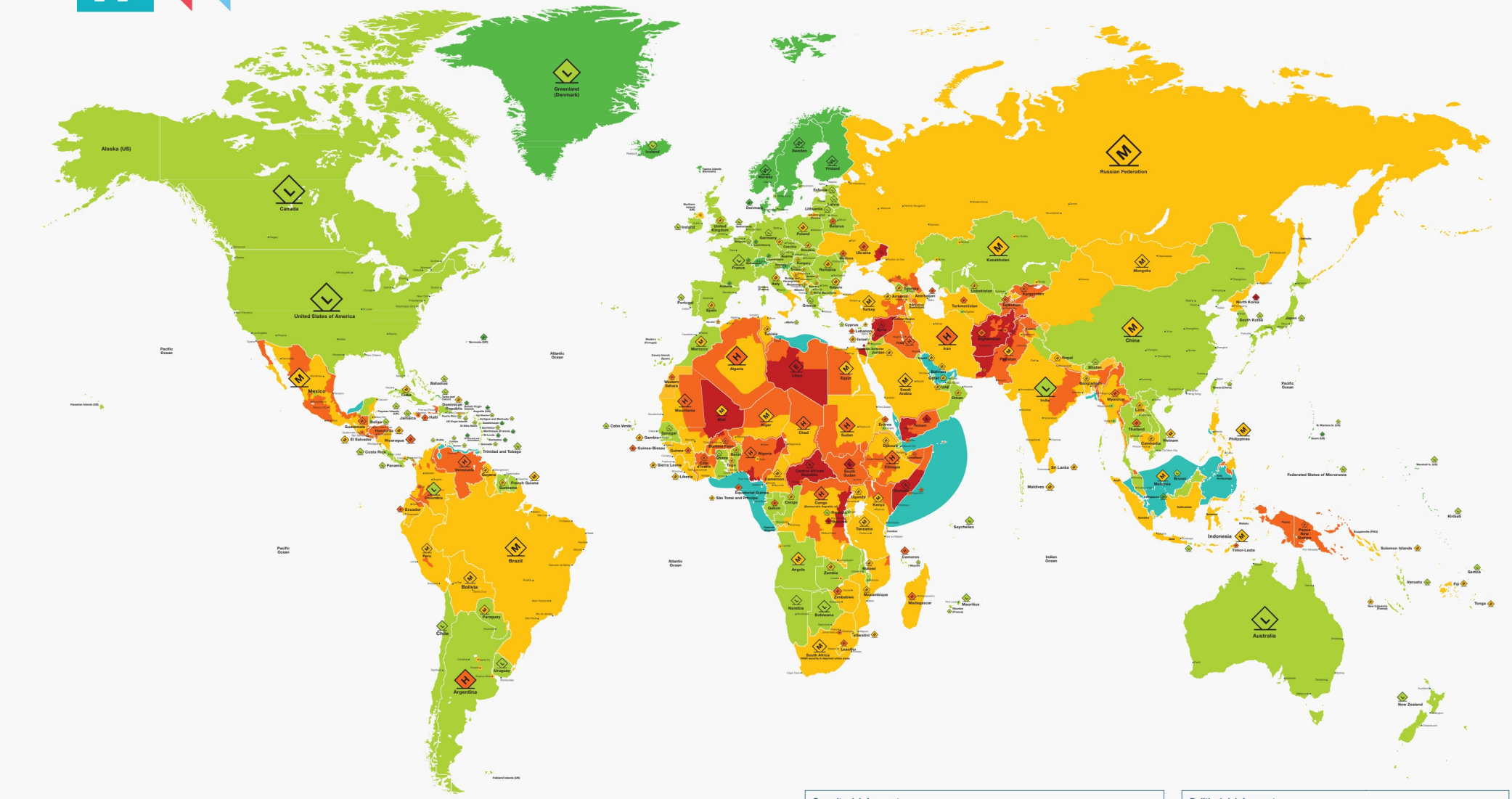
Some Common Dangers

Some Common Dangers

Some Common Dangers

Control Risks

RISKMAP 2020



Security risk forecast

Very Low | Low | Medium | High | Extreme | Maritime Risk

Security risk evaluates threats to the financial, physical and human assets of a company, as well as the willingness and capability of public security forces to protect corporate assets and personnel. Factors assessed include military conflict, insurgency, terrorist attacks, strikes and riots, vandalism, kidnapping, piracy and violent and acquisitive crime. Security risk may vary for companies and investment projects because of factors such as industry sector, investor nationality and geographic location.

Areas of heightened maritime risk.

Political risk forecast

VL Very Low | L Low | M Medium | H High | E Extreme

Political risk evaluates the likelihood of government interference and political instability, and their impact on the business environment. Political risk assesses general political stability and policy issues such as regulatory change, high-level corruption, reputational risk, expropriation and nationalisation, contractual interference, sovereign default and non-payment, and international sanctions. While the rating applies generally to the designated jurisdiction, political risk may vary considerably between industry sectors and investor nationalities.

Download the global forecast for 2020:
controlrisks.com/riskmap

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Listen to warnings.
Trust your instincts.
Get help when you need it.

We can replace your things,
but we can't replace you.

If a high school or university student is visiting your town or city, is there anything specific you would warn them about?

Surprising Stories

Sometimes you do something that feels normal to you, but other people react as though you did something strange. It could be a word, gesture, or action. The situation gets weird, but you don’t know why.

Let’s look at some real examples of American college students abroad. Can you guess what happened?

Created by Addicted04. CC BY-SA 3.0. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazil_on_the_globe_(Brazil_centered).svg

Brazil Incident

(Female, 20 years old) Maria and I were getting ready to go out for the evening. Maria's friend Rodrigo came to pick us up. He finally arrived around midnight. Maria introduced us, and I remembered I had to kiss Rodrigo on the cheek instead of shaking his hand. I kissed Rodrigo once on each cheek. Rodrigo gave me a strange look and glanced at my left hand. Maria laughed as Rodrigo asked why I was not wearing my wedding ring.

Adapted from What's Up with Culture from the School for International Studies at University of the Pacific.

Brazil Explained

(Female, 20 years old) In the Brazilian culture, if you are single you are expected to kiss each person you are introduced to three times. This indicates you are *not* married. When I kissed Rodrigo only twice this was a signal to Rodrigo that I was married. Married women and men only greet people with two kisses.

Adapted from What's Up with Culture from the School for International Studies at University of the Pacific.

Created by TUBS. CC BY-SA 3.0. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Germany_on_the_globe_(Europe_centered).svg

Germany Incident

(Female, 21 years old) The first week I was in Germany, my friend hosted a spaghetti dinner party for the American and German students living nearby. The Americans asked where the German students were from, and said they'd love to see their home towns and experience "real German culture". They also invited the German students to visit America in the future. Everything seemed OK, but the German students were less friendly after that. Why?

Adapted from What's Up with Culture from the School for International Studies at University of the Pacific.

Germany Explained

(Female, 21 years old) The German students didn’t like the Americans talking about their home towns and houses so much. Many people in Germany treat their homes very privately, so they only invite family and very good friends over. For them, to talk about visiting felt rude and superficial. Some time later they discussed the event, and everything was fine, but nobody ever visited anyone’s houses.

Adapted from What's Up with Culture from the School for International Studies at University of the Pacific.

If you live abroad long enough, you're going to have an experience like one of these. Causes can range from local customs, ideas about privacy, or other totally unexpected things that there's no way you could have known in advance.

Health & Safety Reading

Imagine someone tells you that tomorrow you'll be moving to some country in Europe. What is the first thing you would research?

(Amber) If I was moving to Europe, I would research the destination town! I would like to know what is in town, like supermarkets, public transport, and housing. This is very important because it will let me know what my life will be like. Learning about the local area would make me feel more comfortable, so I could move quickly and comfortably. By learning about the town before moving, I would feel a little less worried and stressed about the move, as I could find out about local clubs and services that would be available to me as soon as I arrive. Without learning about the city, I would feel lost and scared. So, I would research the town!

If you go abroad in university, would you prefer to live with a host family, an apartment, or a dormitory? Why?

(Janelle) If I were to go abroad for university, I would want to live in a dormitory. I think that living in a dormitory provides you with a 'real' college experience. Growing up, I watched a lot of American movies where the characters were in university and they seemed to have so much fun living in dorms. Living with a host family is not a desirable option for me because I am quite a shy person and I like to make a space my own. Apartments mean extra move in costs and not being on campus. In a dorm I will get the best of both worlds. I would be with other people, and they will be my own age. Decorating my room and having roommates sounds like a lot of fun, too.

What's the longest time you've spent away from your family?

(Geffel) The longest time I've spent away from my family is 8 months. Living in Japan is a new experience for me, not only because I live far away from my family, but also because it's my first time living alone. It's not easy for me because I've depended a lot on my parents when I lived with them. My dad is a great cook so he cooks all our meals. My mom takes care of our laundry. To be honest, I don't do much house chores because my parents do it all for me. My only contribution is to provide our financial needs. At home, on my days off, I just watch Netflix TV shows. Now that I am living alone in Japan, I have to do all the house chores by myself. It is quite tiring but I have to do it because no one else will.

What's the best purchase you've ever made in your life?

(Doug) Two things come to mind. First, I bought a cast-iron frying pan for $15 back in 2001, and I still use it now, 19 years later. It makes my kitchen feel like home, even as I move to different houses and apartments in different countries. Second, for a major purchase, LASIK was a life-changer. I wore glasses and contacts for 15 years, and now I don't have to. This simplifies life, and it makes contact sports immensely safer. Also, I can see farther than I could wearing glasses. It changed how I see the world. Also, the surgery was scary, so it's a great story to tell people. Would you want to stare at a laser as it cuts into your eye? It seems a touch reckless.

Health & Safety Writing

Answer 4+ questions.

1. What’s the longest time you’ve spent away from your family?
2. If you go abroad in university, would you prefer to live with a host family, an apartment, or a dormitory? Why?
3. Imagine you are living abroad and you lose your cell phone. What kind of problems do you think you would have?
4. What’s the best purchase you’ve ever made in your life?
5. If you could travel around the world with anyone, who would you travel with? Why?
6. Imagine someone tells you that tomorrow you’ll be moving to some country in Europe. You have a little time to prepare. What is the first thing that you would research?

See Also

- International Travel Preparation, Safety, & Wellness. Anna Kalbarczyk. Johns Hopkins University on Coursera. 2020.